FEY IN THE LINE OF FIRE

SNL alum stars as a TV journalist addicted to the rush of war zones

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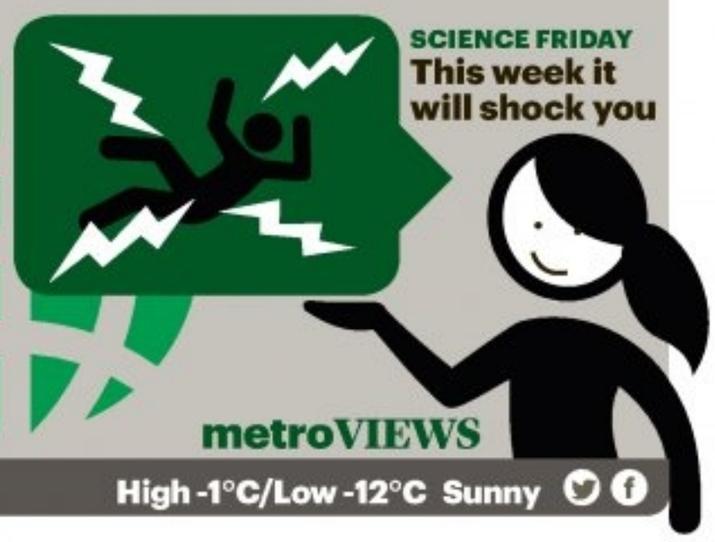
Ottawa metro

Your essential daily news | WEEKEND, MARCH 4-6, 2016



SCIENCE FRIDAY
This week it will shock you

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Mike McEwen will be up against a stacked field at TD Place in Ottawa starting Saturday.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

BRIER BEWARE

Skip picked a tough year to debut at curling championship

metroSPORTS

Group urges open book on library plan

DEVELOPMENT

Bookmark the Core wants info on how board will choose site

Emma Jackson
Metro | Ottawa

Advocates want to open the books on the central library project.

Bookmark the Core leader Emilie Taman has asked the Ottawa Public Library board to release the criteria it's using to choose a location for a new central library.

The city needs to pick a spot soon if they're to break ground by 2018, and they've been meeting privately with interested developers and partners — including Library and Archives Canada — for ideas.

But so far the public hasn't had a chance to comment.

"It would ease concerns if we could see what the criteria are," Taman said.

She wants the library to launch a website where residents can find up-to-date information about the project. She also wants a public consultations advisory group to help design the input process, and an independent expert committee to comment on best practices for developing a central library.

Taman's group is particularly concerned about the push to build the library near LeBreton Flats, outside the traditional downtown.

Five of nine proposed sites are west of Bronson, while two are downtown and two east of the canal.

The interested developers said a site near LeBreton Flats would be "a good location" because the downtown is "shifting west."

But Taman said residents should be able to visit downtown hubs like the Rideau Centre and the central library in one trip — on foot.

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metro NEWS

Your essential daily news

European Union considering 'large-scale' migrant deportation scheme. **World**

5 THINGS TO DO IN OTTAWA THIS WEEKEND

Time to watch curling, eat pancakes and learn to golf. We've got something for everyone this weekend in Ottawa.

Haley Ritchie
Metro | Ottawa

1 Tim Hortons Brier

Curling comes to Ottawa this weekend at TD Place at Lansdowne Park. The Brier is the national men's curling championship and kicks off on Saturday at 1 p.m. for opening ceremonies. Pre-qualifying games are free to attend, and take place Friday and Saturday morning. Qualifying tickets start at $29.50 and are available at curling.ca/2016brier. **All week**

2 Pancake Festival

Enjoy Russian culture (and eat pancakes!) in celebration of the Maslenitsa festival. From 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, the entire family is welcome at the Parish of Our Lady of Kazan and the Protection of the Mother of God at 412 Booth St. in Little Italy. Adult full plates are $10 and include traditional Russian food and drink, folk dancers and a charitable raffle.
Saturday

3 RCMP Musical Ride Horses

Meet the stars of the RCMP Musical Ride on Saturday during the annual open house at the Musical Ride Centre at 1 Sandridge Rd. From 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., visitors can tour the stables, meet the horses and riders and browse the Mountie Shop. Admission is free but donations to the Ottawa Food Bank are encouraged.
Saturday

4 Settlers of Catan Tournament

Are you serious about the Settlers of Catan? Time to test your skills at Mrs. Tiggy Winkle's 809 Bank St. toy shop. Players 10 and older can register online for Saturday's tournament, which runs from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Space is limited, so register in advance at mrstiggywinkles.ca. **Saturday**

5 Golf Expo

Spring is coming and bringing all things green, and the EY Centre will be hosting the Ottawa-Gatineau Golf Expo this weekend to help you get prepared. The event will feature over 100 exhibitors and presentations on the main stage will include workshops by pro golfers. The event is open Friday from 12 p.m. to 8 p.m. and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Adult admission is $14.
Friday & Saturday

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SPROTT

GRAVITATIONAL WAVES

Local firm part of a scientific milestone

Tom Pechloff
Ottawa Business Journal

The detection on Feb. 11 of gravitational waves was a "big day" for Ottawa's Nanometrics, the firm's vice-president of products told OBJ recently.

That's because the Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory (LIGO) used Nanometrics' seismometers to make the scientific breakthrough.

"How cool is that? Our seismometers are (usually) used to detect events that are generally no more than a couple hours old," Bruce Townsend said. "Now we're part of something that is measuring something that is three billion years old and that seems a little out of this world."

No kidding. Albert Einstein predicted gravitational waves in 1916. Their detection 100 years later confirms what had been an unproven part of his theory of relativity and will allow scientists to learn much more about the outer portions of the universe.

The gravitational waves, confirmed last month at LIGO's detectors in Livingston, La., and Hanford, Wash., came from a pair of black holes that merged 1.3 billion light years away from Earth. By the time they reached Earth, they required the most sensitive of instruments to detect them.

SEISMOMETER

Townsend says LIGO first approached Nanometrics in 2008 because it was interested in its flagship product, the Trillium 240 seismometer used to measure seismic waves generated by earthquakes.

TED FELLOWSHIP

U of O prof spreads word on biohacking

Andrew Pelling, a Canada Research Chair in biology and physics, is in Geneva this week. He is one of 50 scientific innovators invited to the Gathering for Open Science Hardware, or GOSH!2016.

The TED Fellow appointment came with a trip to last month's TED 2016 in Vancouver, where Pelling spoke about his research into growing animal muscle and bone with plant materials. The research, which was conducted at the Pelling Lab for Biophysical Manipulation on the University of Ottawa campus, led to the growth of human cells on an apple that was carved into the shape of a human ear.

It's this research that led to the fellowship from TED, a nonprofit organization devoted to spreading ideas that could potentially change the world.

While being a TED Fellow doesn't come with a monetary prize, Pelling said its big value is in the connections he made in Vancouver last month.

"It came with a week of hanging out with people I definitely want to be hanging out with," he said. "There's definitely some payoff down the road. I'm not ready to announce anything (but) I think there's some pretty interesting opportunities coming up." STEPHEN KARMAZYN/OTTAWA BUSINESS JOURNAL

IN BRIEF

Papanack Zoo protest planned for Sunday

Concerned about the state of zoos in Ontario?

You can tell the world — or, at least, Highway 17 drivers — how you feel this Sunday as the Ottawa Animal Defense League stages a protest near Papanack Zoo in Wendover.

An African lion was killed there last weekend after it escaped its enclosure and couldn't be contained.

Protesters will meet at the corner of Highway 17 and County Road 19, just north of the zoo, at 1 p.m. EMMA JACKSON/METRO

Teen charged with assault after hockey tournament

An Ottawa teen is facing an assault charge following an investigation into an on-ice incident during a hockey game.

Police say a youth suffered a concussion during a game billed as "non-contact" on Jan. 17 at the Richcraft Sensplex. They say the youth required treatment at hospital.

Police say they received the complaint on Jan. 20.

A 17-year-old boy is charged with assault causing bodily harm. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Minister of Finance Charles Sousa shows off the budget to the Opposition benches. Ontario's fiscal watchdog says it will likely be a challenge for the province to maintain balanced budgets beyond 2017-18. RICK MADONIK/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Maintaining balance could be 'challenging'

BUDGET

Watchdog says province relying on 'optimistic' assumptions

> Those are their three big one-time sales and when that runs out ... that's when the music stops.
> PC finance critic Vic Fedeli, on the Hydro One, LCBO lands and Ontario Power Generation HQ sales

Ontario's fiscal watchdog says it "will likely prove challenging" for the province to maintain balanced budgets beyond 2017-18.

The Liberal government plans to eliminate its $5.7-billion deficit in that fiscal year and expects to stay in the black the following year.

But it is relying on "relatively optimistic assumptions for revenue growth," of an average increase of 5.1 per cent per year to 2017-18, which is "much higher" than the average annual growth over the past four years, the Financial Accountability Office's chief economist says.

That projection is "mainly buoyed" by relatively optimistic economic assumptions, additional federal transfers, and $1.9 billion expected next year in cap-and-trade revenue, David West wrote in a blog post.

This year's budget reported $2.7 billion in revenue across a number of different categories from the partial sale of Hydro One, but the government hasn't provided complete details of the fiscal impact of the sale, West wrote.

NDP Leader Andrea Horwath called that "disconcerting."

"This principle of transparency that the Liberals had promised around the sell-off went out the window a long time ago," she said.

The budget also assumes more money from asset sales in 2016-17 and the following year, to the tune of $700 million and $800 million respectively. But, as West wrote, it did not indicate where that money would come from, whether it is further Hydro One tranches or other assets.

Progressive Conservative finance critic Vic Fedeli said the FAO report confirms that the government is getting to balance with one-time money.

"It will be harder to maintain a balanced budget after 2017-18 because they'll have finished selling Hydro One, they'll have sold the LCBO warehouse, they'll have sold the (Ontario Power Generation) headquarters — those are their three big one-time sales and when that runs out, coincidentally after the 2018 election, that's when the music stops."

Finance Minister Charles Sousa said the asset sale money is dedicated to an infrastructure fund and cap-and-trade revenue is dedicated to green projects, "so it's not something we're relying upon to come to balance." THE CANADIAN PRESS

WARRANT

Arrested man focus of terrorism concerns

Joe Lofaro
Metro | Ottawa

A Montreal man appearing at a Gatineau, Que., bail hearing Thursday was the subject of a warrant based on national security concerns, says a Crown prosecutor.

Ismael Habib, 28, is facing charges of criminal harassment after he allegedly threatened to kill his girlfriend during an incident on Feb. 20. He was also charged with possessing a forged driver's licence and equipment capable for forging identification.

His lawyer, Jacques Belley, said on his way to court Thursday that his client is facing other accusations that he was allegedly planning to go to the Middle East to "join the terrorists."

The RCMP also reportedly seized Habib's passport.

Evidence presented at his bail hearing is protected by a publication ban.

But Marie-Josée Genest said outside of court she learned Thursday morning a federal judge in Montreal sought a warrant for Habib to enter into a peace bond under Section 810 of the Criminal Code.

A judge can ask for one when someone "can be a threat to national security," she said.

Since the warrant was issued out of Montreal, it is not covered by the publication ban from the Gatineau courthouse.

Genest is arguing to keep him in custody on the harassment and forgery charges, but the warrant issued in Montreal has no bearing on this case, she said.

"I don't know what (the RCMP) has in their files. What I'm using is the evidence I have in my file in Gatineau," she told reporters outside court.

Habib has not been charged with any terrorism-related offences and he does not have a criminal record in Quebec.

It is not clear how Habib will face a judge in Montreal if he loses his bid for release from Gatineau police.

Section 810 orders of the Criminal Code are used when the court fears someone will commit a "criminal organization offence," according to a Public Safety handbook on high-risk offenders.

The defendant must keep the peace and be of good behaviour and abide by any conditions set out in court.

Habib's bail hearing is expected to continue next week.

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TIP
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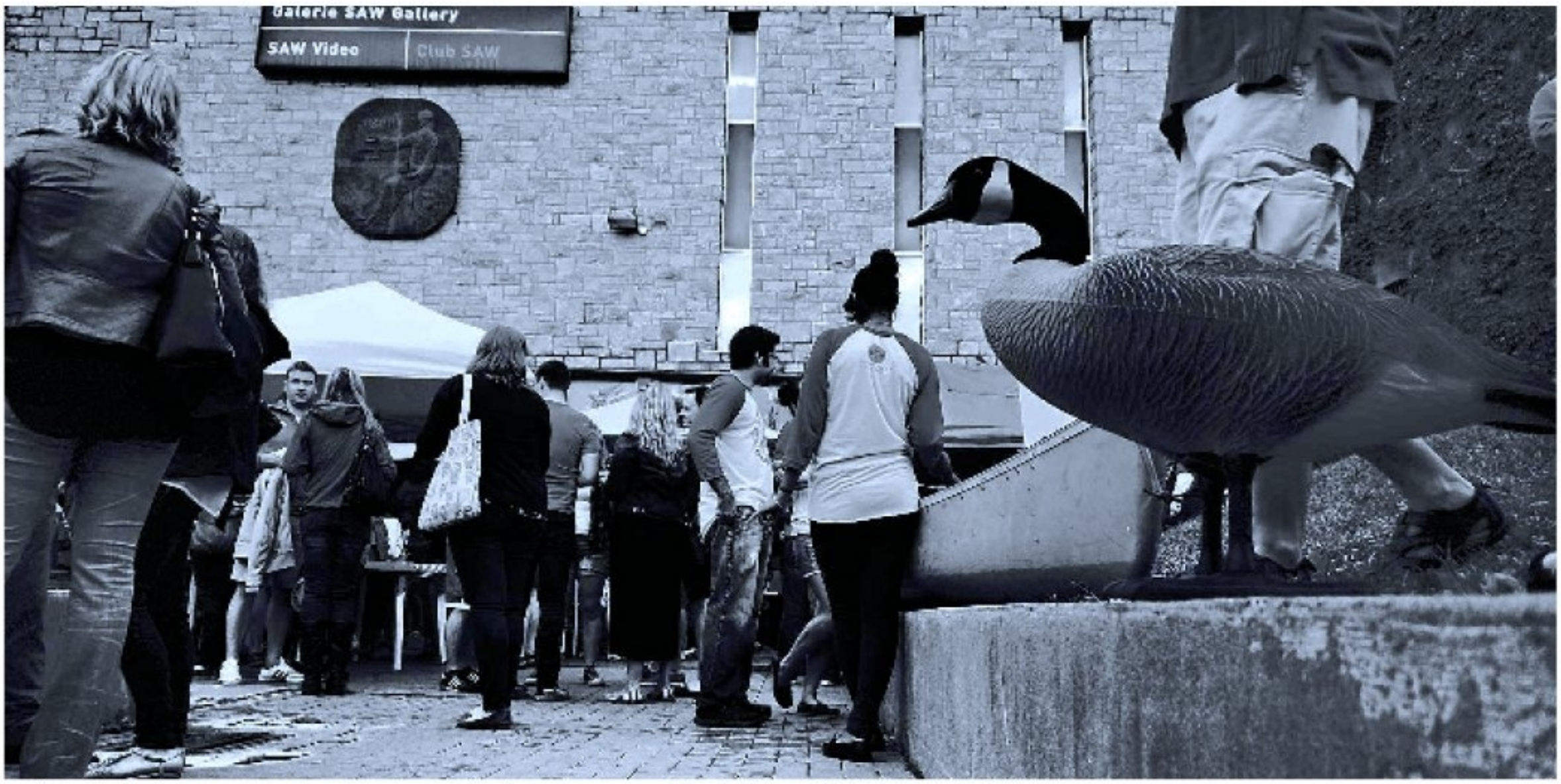

Dominion City Brewing Company and town. restaurant are teaming up to present a night of cuisine and drink inspired by the thriller Butcher. COURTESY INDIE CALENDAR CO.

Dinner, beer and stage play

CUISINE AND CULTURE

Dominion City, Great Canadian Theatre, town. pool resources

THE BOTTLENECK
Jordan Duff

Food. Theatre. Beer. These three forces will be combining in dramatic fashion this Tuesday, March 8, at a theatre near you! Specifically, they'll be at the Great Canadian Theatre Company, at Wellington Street West and Holland Avenue.

Dominion City Brewing Company and town. restaurant are teaming up to present this night of cuisine and drink, inspired by the thriller stage play, Butcher. The four-course beer/meal pairing features a creative menu of off-cuts and one-off brews. Tickets are $95 and now available at gctc.ca.

As luck would have it, the GCTC happened to have a ready-made, but unused, kitchen and restaurant space. The drive and design for the collaboration came from the back-kitchen and brewery staff. Dominion City's assistant brewer, Scott Denyer, led the charge and has created an innovative lineup of small batch beers.

Beyond this gastronomic, zymurgical and theatrical night of fancy, Dominion City has made many other fantastic partnerships within the local arts scene and really helped to shed some light on one of Ottawa's lesser-known gems. The brewery has partnered with indie theatre festivals since opening and has worked with events like Ottawa Fringe, undercurrents and Fresh Meat plus smaller companies like Third Wall. This latest event looks like a fantastic offering that bridges many different arts and culture groups in Ottawa.

This arts and culture support is part of a wider phenomenon of local breweries really engaging and investing in their communities. Normally, "Support Local" is thought to be residents supporting local businesses but there are businesses that want to give back. Dominion City's head brewer, Josh McJannett gets it: "Ottawa is a town where you can't help but collaborate. There are so many creative people doing cool things here and we've found beer is this great vehicle for bringing people together."

Dominion City isn't the only brewery getting into the fun of supporting local, but in the interest of my word-count limits, I'll only provide a couple examples. For instance, Tooth and Nail brewing recently worked with local skier Dustin Cook to create an auction to raise funds for CHEO and Children's Aid. Brewer Matt Tweedy also sees the positives in keeping it local: "Breweries historically have given back to their communities. It's great to see that this ethos continues to this day. People have started to see breweries as being a big part of their community."

That's true of the newest brewery in Ottawa and one of the oldest, Beau's Brewery, which has made social responsibility part of its ideology. Among the many charitable endeavours, Beau's BYBO (Buy Your Beer Online) is a great example. Every time you BYBO, the delivery "fee" goes entirely to Operation Come Home. Drink charitably!

A lesser-known gem is highlighted. COURTESY INDIE CALENDAR CO.

Beer, food and art make a great combination. COURTESY JESSEY BIRD/COURTESY INDIE CALENDAR CO.

LOCAL HOP-PENINGS

Beau's Brewery is throwing a St. Paddy's day party Saturday, March 19 at Aberdeen Pavilion. This event is sold out, so feel free to brag if you already have tickets! Details: stpatricksparty.ca.

Yoga on Tap is bringing the pints and poses to **Tooth and Nail** brewery this Sunday, March 6. And they have announced they are taking their show on the road this April and traveling to breweries across Ontario. Follow the journey here: yogaontap.ca.

Whiprsnapr and **Quitters Coffee** have teamed up to create a new beer (and a new beer pun). Trans Canada Tr-ale is available only at the coffee house.

Union Local 613 is hosting another chapter in its delightful **Beer Session series** on Tuesday, March 15. The session will feature local friends **Beau's Brewery**.

Last but never least, **Stalwart Brewing** has released a tasty new beer: The Zigzagger IPA.

Carbon pricing accord

CLIMATE CHANGE

Ministers in agreement, with regional adaptations

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said Canada's premiers have agreed that carbon pricing will be part of any national plan to address climate change.

He said they will study pricing options that would be adapted to the specific circumstances of each province and territory.

The working group is one of four announced by Trudeau in Vancouver on Thursday after a day-long climate-change meeting with first ministers.

Trudeau said they are to meet again in the fall when the working groups are to report back.

"The commitment we made today, with the Vancouver Declaration, shows all first ministers in this country united on carbon pricing mechanisms," he said.

"The fact that we have consensus on the need to include carbon pricing in our approach to addressing climate change right across the country is a great thing indeed."

He added he's happy there's a plan to move forward while respecting regional differences.

"The working group that we have put together will dig into the mechanisms that will be most effective and most appropriate for each jurisdiction, recognizing that there are areas that face greater challenges."

The federal government has been quietly insisting for weeks that a national carbon price, as promised in the Liberal election platform, will be imposed from above if provinces are unable to agree. The day started with several premiers pushing back against that federal resolve.

Nova Scotia Premier Stephen McNeil suggested there was "more than one way to deal with the carbon issue."

He said Atlantic Canada's heavy spending on hydro-electric transmission has effectively already built in a carbon price with electricity rates that are the highest in Canada.

Yukon Premier Darrell Pasloski said he and his fellow territorial premiers are against imposing additional costs on consumers of fossil fuels in the North.

Brad Wall of Saskatchewan came to Vancouver warning against a carbon tax in a fragile Canadian economy, but cleared the air Wednesday by saying his province would participate "constructively" in any working groups. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau leads Canada's premiers to a news conference during the First Ministers Meeting in Vancouver on Thursday. JONATHAN HAYWARD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

MANITOBA

Manitoba Premier Greg Selinger, who faces re-election this spring, said there's a common understanding among premiers that action on climate change can and should take many paths. "The do-nothing option is not there," he said.

BORDER

Police project delayed

A Canada-U.S. initiative to create new, cross-border law-enforcement teams has been "postponed" due to unresolved concerns about how to treat police officers accused of breaking the law.

The so-called next-generation border project has been put off as discussions continue with U.S. officials — almost four years after pilot projects were supposed to begin, said Staff Sgt. Julie Gagnon, a force spokeswoman.

The initiative — part of the 2011 Canada-U.S. perimeter security pact — would see the two countries build on joint border-policing efforts by creating integrated teams in areas such as intelligence and criminal investigations.

Two pilot projects were supposed to get underway by summer 2012.

But in 2013, it emerged that the effort was being held up by the difficult question of which country's legal system would apply if a police officer were accused of breaking the law.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

MADAGASCAR

Vet learning to protect lemurs

Meg Crane
For Metro

A Malagasy veterinarian has arrived in Canada to get firsthand surgery training in hopes of sparing Madagascar's native wildlife, such as lemurs, from being decimated by strays in her home country.

Hoping to learn the skills to spay and neuter wildlife in Winnipeg, Rajaonarivelo left Madagascar for the first time on Feb. 26.

Jonas Watson, of Tuxedo Animal Hospital, says veterinary schools in Madagascar offer no practical training. Watson is one of the vets behind Mad Dog Initiative, an organization that goes to Madagascar to trap, spay or neuter and release stray cats and dogs.

"We get some local people with veterinary experience to help us," said Watson. That's where the team met Rajaonarivelo — she was brought on with no practical surgical training to help.

"She is a quick learner and she retains everything you tell her," Watson said.

In Winnipeg, Rajaonarivelo is working with about a dozen different vets, including those at the Assiniboine Park Zoo's clinic.

"It's pretty different from what I know in my country because there are just lots of machines (here)," Rajaonarivelo said. "When we do the surgery in Madagascar, like in the project, we don't have the (same equipment)."

Although the mechanics are different, she said she's learning skills that she'll be able to use in her practice when she returns.

Next summer, Rajaonarivelo will be leading Mad Dog's spay and neuter project in Madagascar.

"We do this project to protect our wildlife," said Rajaonarivelo. "It's very important for us to protect them."

The non-profit also paid for her to come to Winnipeg, so financial donations are being accepted to offset those costs, Watson said.

"I went there thinking we were going to help dogs and help protect wildlife," said Watson. But the most rewarding part has been helping the people there, he added, such as Rajaonarivelo, by giving them opportunities.

Tsiky Rajaonarivelo with Birchwood resident cat, Harvey. MEG CANE/FOR METRO

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IN BRIEF

Man finds possible plane debris from Flight MH370
An American adventurer named Blaine Gibson said that he discovered part of an aircraft on a sandbar off the coast of Mozambique. The debris could be from the Malaysia Airlines flight that disappeared two years ago with 239 people aboard. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cholera kills scores in Haiti
Cholera, which arrived in Haiti in October 2010, has sickened more than 770,000 people and killed more than 9,200. So far this year, it has sickened more than 6,000 and is killing an average of 37 people a month, according to the latest government figures. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kalamazoo shooter to be examined before trial
A man charged in the fatal shooting of six people in southwestern Michigan will undergo a mental competency exam. Prosecutor Jeff Getting said the review of Jason Dalton's mental health could delay the case by at least two months. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

REFUGEE CRISIS

EU considers mass migrant deportation

Turkey is under growing pressure to consider a major escalation in migrant deportations from Greece, a top European Union official said Thursday, amid preparations for a highly anticipated summit of EU and Turkish leaders next week.

European Council President Donald Tusk ended a six-nation tour of migration crisis countries in Turkey, where 850,000 migrants and refugees left last year for Greek islands.

"We agree that the refugee flows still remain far too high," Tusk said after meeting Turkish Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu.

"To many in Europe, the most promising method seems to be a fast and large-scale mechanism to ship back irregular migrants arriving in Greece. It would effectively break the business model of the smugglers."

Tusk was careful to single out illegal economic migrants for possible deportation, not asylum-seekers. And he wasn't clear who would actually carry out the expulsions.

Greek officials said Thursday that nearly 32,000 migrants were stranded in the country following a decision by Austria and four ex-Yugolsav countries to drastically reduce the number of transiting migrants. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Migrants queue outside the hospitality centre on the Greek Island of Samos. LEFTERIS PITARAKIS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mitt Romney, top left, gives a speech on the state of the Republican party in Salt Lake City, Utah, Thursday. **Romney spoke about Donald Trump, right, calling him a fraud** and arguing against his nomination, a sentiment Sen. John McCain, bottom right, agreed with. GETTY IMAGES/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Trump levelled by McCain, Romney

POLITICS

Ex-presidential nominees urge GOP to shun front-runner

In an extraordinary display of Republican chaos, the party's most recent presidential nominees, Mitt Romney and John McCain, lambasted current front-runner Donald Trump on Thursday, calling him unfit for office and a danger for the nation and the GOP.

"His is not the temperament of a stable, thoughtful leader," Romney declared. He called Trump "a phoney" who is "playing the American public for suckers," a man whose "imagination must not be married to real power."

Hours later, Trump lashed back, calling Romney "a choke artist" who lost to Barack Obama four years ago only because he was such a poor candidate.

The vicious feud marked a near-unprecedented scenario pitting the Republican Party's most prominent leaders, past and present, against each other as Democrats begin to unite around Hillary Clinton.

The GOP's 2008 nominee, Arizona Sen. McCain, joined in, raising "many concerns about Mr. Trump's uninformed and indeed dangerous statements on national security issues." That echoes the worries of dozens of leading conservative defence and foreign policy officials.

The back-and-forth came as the Republican candidates prepared for their first post-Super Tuesday debate Thursday night in Detroit. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TALKING BACK

Kelly prepares for debate
All eyes were on Megyn Kelly and Donald Trump during Fox News Channel's Megyn Kelly in Thursday's Republican presidential debate. She said she prepared the same "tough but fair" questions for him as she does for other candidates.

Kelly and Trump clashed during the first GOP debate last summer. Trump then boycotted an Iowa debate that Fox telecast in January after the network refused to remove Kelly as one of the moderators. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MISSILE LAUNCH

North Korea readying its nukes

North Korean leader Kim Jong-un has ordered his country's nuclear weapons made ready for use at a moment's notice, the official state news agency reported Friday.

Kim also said his country will ready its military so it is prepared to carry out pre-emptive attacks, calling the current situation very precarious, according to KCNA.

On Thursday, North Korea fired six short-range projectiles into the sea off its east coast, South Korean officials said, just hours after the UN Security Council approved the toughest sanctions on the North in two decades for its recent nuclear test and long-range rocket launch.

The firings also came shortly after South Korea's National Assembly passed its first legislation on human rights in North Korea.

North Korea routinely test-fires missiles and rockets, but often conducts weapons launches when angered at international condemnation. Thursday's firings were seen as a "low-level" response to the UN sanctions, with North Korea unlikely to launch any major provocation until its landmark ruling Workers' Party convention in May, according to Yang Moo-jin, a professor at the University of North Korean Studies in Seoul. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

150 km

The North Korean projectiles flew about 100 to 150 kilometres before landing in the sea, South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Festivals feel loonie's pinch

ECONOMY

Music and arts events booking more Canadian performers

The Toronto Sketch Comedy Festival has recruited some notable American names in the past, including Saturday Night Live star Kate McKinnon and writer-actor Michael Ian Black.

But this year it will be an exclusively Canadian event for a reason that's no laughing matter: The low loonie means the fest can't afford to book international talent.

This year's lineup is all homegrown and a bit more eclectic than usual, with names including Rush guitarist Alex Lifeson and Dave Bidini of the Rheostatics, along with comedians Gavin Crawford, Jessica Holmes and Sean Cullen.

They may be household names on this side of the border, but the festival isn't expecting to sell as many tickets as in previous years.

"I think we probably will not," says Paul Snepsts, executive director of the event, which kicked off Thursday.

"That's not because of a lack of talent in this country. It just seems, and I think this is true in music as well as comedy, that we have a tendency to be prone to buying into something once it has achieved success elsewhere."

Some other arts festivals are also grappling with the weak dollar.

"We're feeling it somewhat," says Josh Grossman, artistic director of the TD Toronto Jazz Festival, which showcases talent from around the world.

Grossman says he's heard organizers of other festivals say the loonie is also affecting their approach to programming.

He expects his festival may have to raise some ticket prices "a little bit."

"It's hard to say exactly, but a show that we might have been able to sell for $25 last year is maybe going to be $30 this year, that sort of thing," he says.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

FIRST VICTIM

Squamish Valley Music Festival cancelled

B.C.'s Squamish Valley Music Festival, which takes place in August, has officially been cancelled for 2016. Squamish Mayor Patricia Heintzman said organizers told her it was a "business decision," which she suspects was likely influenced by the low Canadian dollar.

METRO

Janneke Coenen dances at the Squamish Valley Music Festival in August last year. The festival has been cancelled for 2016, and Squamish Mayor Patricia Heintzman suspects the dollar influenced that decision. JENNIFER GAUTHIER/METRO FILE

IN BRIEF

Warmer ocean points to boom in lobster catch

Scientists with the Gulf of Maine Research Institute predict this year's lobster season will get rolling two or three weeks early as warming ocean temperatures prompt lobsters to move inshore.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Google joins the Zika fight

Google is donating $1 million US to fight the spread of the Zika virus and is building a platform to process weather and travel data to predict where it will hit next.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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SCIENCE FRIDAYS

Stress and grief can trigger heart trouble. A new study shows joyous events like becoming a grandparent can break your heart too.

DECODED

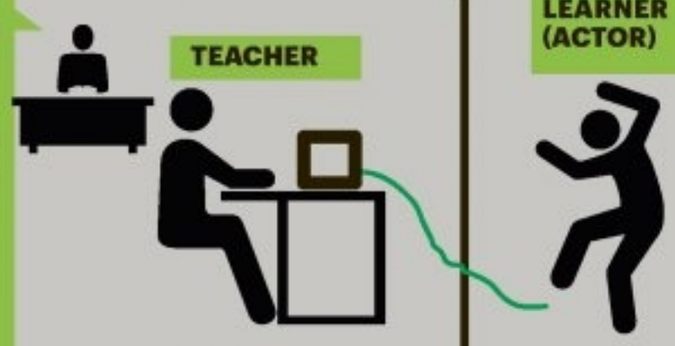
'Just following orders'

That was the catchphrase of the **Milgram experiments**, some of the most infamous studies in the history of science. In the 1960s, psychologist Stanley Milgram believed he'd proven regular people could be easily convinced to inflict what they thought was a painful, or even deadly, electric shock on somebody if they were ordered to by an authority figure. He said it was a profound insight into the minds of perpetrators of atrocities like the Holocaust. But reputable science must be replicable. And the Milgram experiments, which required that researchers tell people to harm others, were so ethically problematic that there was no way to repeat them in a modern lab. But now, someone has tried.

The original Milgram experiments

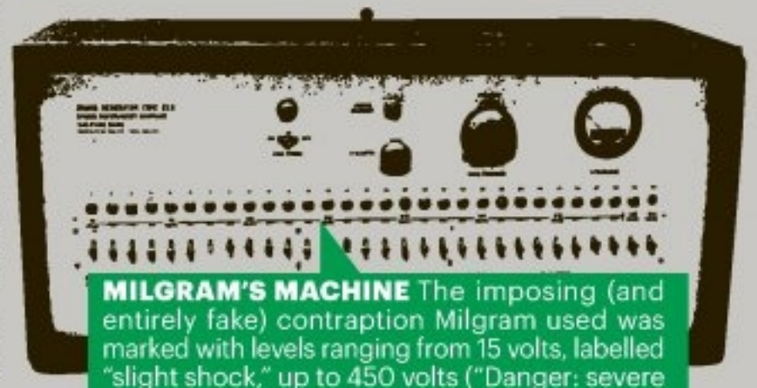
Stanley Milgram, 1963

EXPERIMENTER
As the "shocks" and screams got more intense, the lab assistant delivered lines from a script if participants started to express doubts. First "Please continue," then "The experiment requires that you continue," then "It is absolutely essential that you continue" and finally "You have no other choice, you must go on."



STUDY TITLE: BEHAVIOURAL STUDY OF OBEDIENCE

Method: The volunteer research subject, called "the teacher," read a list of words for "the learner," an actor who was hooked up to a (fake) shock machine in another room, out of sight. If the learner made a mistake repeating the words, the teacher was instructed to deliver electric shocks. Pre-recorded screams were played, and just before the highest shock was to be given, the learner fell silent.
Result: In the one experiment, 65 per cent of "teachers" obeyed all orders, right up to the end.



MILGRAM'S MACHINE The imposing (and entirely fake) contraption Milgram used was marked with levels ranging from 15 volts, labelled "slight shock," up to 450 volts ("Danger: severe shock"). Among his hundreds of human guinea pigs, many later reported either discomfort or confusion, but a few suffered more serious effects — even a heart attack and seizures. Some experts have even argued what Milgram did meets the definition of torture under international law.

A modern Milgram

Patrick Haggard and colleagues, 2016

EXPERIMENTER
In one study, an experimenter stood over the subject and told her which key to press — a little nudge that proved to have a clear impact on their actions. In another, the experimenter looked away and let the subjects decide for themselves.

STUDY TITLE: COERCION CHANGES THE SENSE OF AGENCY IN THE HUMAN BRAIN

Method: This experiment had no element of secrecy. The research subjects sat across from each other with a keyboard between them with two keys: One delivered a painful (but not dangerous) electric shock, while the other did nothing. Some subjects were told to deliver shocks, and others were given free choice as to whether to deliver them or not.
Result: The research subjects who were ordered by the lab assistant to deliver shocks were significantly more likely to do so.

The late Staney Milgram is an authority, albeit an extremely controversial one, in the world of psychology.

The average social psychology textbook devotes eight pages to his work, and interest in it is growing exponentially.

The question of why good, or at least normal, people sometimes do others harm has eternal appeal. It's easy to see why: If we understand that, couldn't we understand, for example, why some children are bullies, or why some people become terrorists?

Investigating that question is more complicated than it seems, says St. Thomas University psychology professor Ian Nicholson, a critic of Milgram-style experiments old and new.

"Milgram came out of an era — which hasn't completely ended — where there was a dream of being able to develop a level of exactitude toward human nature akin to the certainty we have in the natural sciences," Nicholson says. "We'd know definitively why people become bad."

Drawing conclusions about the Holocaust from people's behaviour in a lab is a logical leap too far, he argues.

Unlike research subjects, perpetrators of atrocities knew exactly what they were doing, and believed it was right. And that's the key distinction, Nicholson says.

He likens Milgram's lab to an "unusual space" like a magician's stage. You might be asked to volunteer to take a saw to someone, and it might be socially acceptable to do it. But that wouldn't make you an axe murderer. Everyone knows "Kooky, goofy, weird stuff goes on" in psych labs, he says, and people "roll with it."

In the Milgram 2.0 experiments, there was no deception. Participants knew they were dishing out real pain, and they continued. Author Patrick Haggard told Nature, "Your sense of responsibility is reduced whenever someone orders you to do something."

Still, this took place in a lab. It's hard to make a case, Nicholson says, that the results are "generalizable." What he suggests instead is less electrifying: Consult historical records, and if you want to understand people who've done horrible things, talk to them.

FASCINATING FINDS OF THE WEEK

ATTRACTIVE IDEA
For years, techies have dreamt of Magnetic Random Access Memory, a data-storage method so sturdy that in-progress essays would survive power outages; so efficient, phones would last days. Until now the method (which involves reversing the spin of electrons) required a huge blast of electricity. But Dutch researchers have found a workaround: bending the electric current with a sort of anti-magnet.

FOR THE GATOR GOOD
Nesting birds in the Everglades tend to live near alligators' lairs. The reptiles are handy bodyguards against racoons and other predators who like to snatch eggs and chicks. Now there's new evidence, published in the journal PLOS One, of why alligators dig this arrangement. Wading birds lay more eggs than they can raise, and they get rid of extra chicks by pushing them out of the nest. Alligators snack on the surplus.

SOUND SMART

A hypothesis, now confirmed, for why island coasts are more biodiverse than open oceans: Currents around islands dredge up nutrient-rich water that nourishes phytoplankton, which provide food for invertebrates and fish, which attract sea birds — and presto! Coral reef.

Genna Buck

Citizen Scientist

Should I try cutting wheat, dairy or eggs out of my child's diet?

QUESTION
My four-year-old gets frequent tummy aches. Other parents swear by eliminating irritating foods — wheat, dairy, eggs, etc. Does that actually work? Andrea in Halifax

Dear Andrea,

I can't address your child's issues from here in Toronto, and also I'm not a health professional. Get thee to your family doctor! Not Dr. Google. The dietary-advice industry is a duck pond: It's full of quacks.

To your question: Yes, elimination diets (i.e. dairy-free) have their place for children with an allergy (diagnosed by a doctor, usually with a skin test), or an intolerance (such as lactose intolerance and others).

A study out of Umeå University in Sweden this week looked at food allergies and parent-identified hypersensitivities in 2,585 seven- and eight-year-olds. Just 0.6 per cent showed evidence of reactions to at least one basic food (milk, eggs, fish or wheat). But eight times as many had parents who *said* they were allergic to one of those things. Years later, many of the kids were still on restricted diets, though the majority had either outgrown their allergy or intolerance (many do), or never had it in the first place.

Dieticians will tell you growing kids should enjoy a variety of foods. Without a good medical reason, they'd rarely advise cutting a whole category like dairy, which for all its faults is rich in calcium and protein.

Science question? Email scene@metronews.ca

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MOVIES MUSIC TELEVISION GOSSIP

Gerard Butler: The actor we love to hate

Gerard Butler is looking to redeem his bad movie rap with London Has Fallen, which opens this weekend. CONTRIBUTED

ANALYSIS

Good looks, acting chops and bad movie role choices

Richard Crouse
For Metro Canada

Last week as I fought traffic en route to a London Has Fallen screening, I tweeted from the back of a cab, "Out of my way people! I'm running late for a Gerard Butler movie!" It was a silly little joke, a comment to kill time as we idled in the morning rush hour.

The first response came in right away: "said no one, ever," followed by a torrent of unexpected Butler hate.

One person called him a "bouncer actor," whatever that means.

Another questioned his ability to effectively disguise his native Scottish accent and many people offered me their condolences.

Why the Butler bashing?

It's true he is a frustrating movie star. He shares the usual leading man traits that have made Brad Pitt and Leonardo DiCaprio superstars.

He's handsome, talented and built like an action star but he's been done in time after time by poor choices.

Pitt makes Fight Club, Butler makes Law Abiding Citizen. Leo stars in The Departed, Gerard does Machine Gun Preacher. Years ago the website Gawker placed Butler on movie star probation, calling him a "professional bad decision maker" alongside notable career fritterers Cuba Gooding Jr. and John Travolta. A look at his IMDB page suggests they were on to something.

He's a utility player, comfortable switching genres the way most of us change our socks. One minute he's a romantic comedy star, the next he's choking out bad guys on screen. He's flirted with Shakespeare and provided voices for cartoons.

He's done sci-fi flicks, musicals and even a rendering of the Anglo-Saxon epic poem Beowulf.

It's not like he hasn't enjoyed some very big hits. In 300 he (and his meticulously crafted six-pack) played King Leonidas, a Spartan who led 300 soldiers against the might of the Persian army.

It's the film equivalent of a heavy metal concert — loud, brutal and completely uncompromising — and it made him an action hero.

People have a soft spot for Dear Frankie, his breakout film and the one that turned him into a heartthrob with serious dramatic chops. The four-hankie U.K. tear-jerker about a single mother who resorts to trickery to keep the memory of her late husband alive in her son's mind put Butler on the world stage.

Other box office bonanzas include playing a charming mobster in the violent Guy Ritchie flick RocknRolla and voicing Viking Stoick the Vast in How to Train Your Dragon.

It's the other stuff that seems to rub people the wrong way. As a movie reviewer I can attest there are few English language words more terrifying than "New Gerard Butler Romantic Comedy" and I think it is those films that turned my Twitter followers against him.

He's a good actor but his track record in the rom-com department is particularly grim.

Critics hate these movies, calling the handsome Scottish actor's attempts at mixing love and comedy, "instantly grating," and "embarrassingly limited."

But I come to praise Butler, not to bury him. Let's give him another chance.

I made it to the London Has Fallen screening and can tell you it's a pretty good action movie. Perhaps even good enough to erase the memory of The Ugly Truth or Playing for Keeps from our collective memories.

MOVIE RATINGS by Richard Crouse

Zootopia	★★★★
London Has Fallen	★★★
Whiskey Tango Foxtrot	★★★
The Legend of Barney Thomson	★★★

HOW RATING WORKS
★★★★ SEE IT
★★★ WORTHWHILE
★★ UP TO YOU
★ SKIP IT

INTERVIEW

Canadian animator the man behind the mammals of Zootopia

Disney animator Trent Correy may be an Ottawa native, but three years of living and working in Burbank, Calif., have changed him.

"I get home about once or twice a year now," he says. "It's hard to go in the winter, my body has adapted to here. I tend to send my parents photos of me on the beach in February when it is -42 C back home. I have flip flops on now while we're talking just to turn the knife a little bit."

Ironically the sun worshipper's breakout was helping to animate the snowman Olaf in Frozen. You've also seen his handiwork in Big Hero 6 and this weekend he's back with the furry and funny film Zootopia.

"The nice part of Zootopia was working with a number of different characters," says the Algonquin College graduate. "I worked with everything from a mouse to a sloth to an elephant. It kept the job very interesting."

Set in an alternate universe where animals, both predator and prey, live harmoniously in a city called Zootopia, the movie's funniest sequence involves a slow moving sloth named Flash. It was the first scene Correy helped animate. "There are a lot of challenges animating a sloth moving at that speed," he says, "and a lot of other challenges animating a mouse or an elephant with their different weights and animal attributes."

The 28-year-old is a rising star at Disney — he's currently working on the mythological epic Moana — so it might come as a surprise that he didn't take art in high school.

"I failed art," he admits. "It was totally my fault. I wasn't into the art history stuff at the time and I was really interested in drawing cartoons. That was looked upon as not real art so the teacher and myself had disagreements. I ended up having to take drama, and that's fun too.

Zootopia. HANDOUT

"I did always love to draw. I have to thank my mom, who is an artist, who encouraged me to draw and keep going."

He rediscovered his passion for art after high school and now joins the rather long and impressive list of Canadians who are helping to shape the future of animation. But why Canadians are so in demand as animators?

"There is a rich history of animation in Canada with the NFB and a lot of TV work in the '80s and '90s," he says. "I think a lot of it has to do with work ethic. I tend to see a lot of people who come from TV animation who are faster. They have to be because they get paid per frame in a lot of places in Canada, whereas here it's salary.

"Our whole crew here is very international, we have people from all over the world. I think there is a bit of, 'I'm coming from a different country and I'm trying to prove myself in this big place.' It feels so far away from Ottawa." RICHARD CROUSE/FOR METRO

FEUD

Simone estate slams casting call in biopic

If there was any doubt about how Nina Simone's family feels about the upcoming biopic starring Zoe Saldana, recent social media posts make it clear they are not pleased.

A fresh round of criticism for the film erupted after the trailer and poster for Nina were unveiled Wednesday.

Saldana posted a quote from the singer and civil rights activist on Twitter, and Simone's estate responded with: "Cool story but please take Nina's name out your mouth. For the rest of your life."

Simone's daughter and others have decried the choice to cast a light-skinned actress as the African-American activist since Saldana took the part in 2012. Her skin was apparently darkened for the role.

At the time, Simone's daughter, Simone Kelly, said: "Appearance-wise this is not the best choice."

"My mother was raised at a time when she was told her nose was too wide, her skin was too dark," Kelly told the New York Times in a 2012 interview.

The Simone estate tweeted Wednesday: "Hopefully people begin to understand this is painful. Gut-wrenching, heartbreaking, nauseating, soul-crushing. It shall pass, but for now..."

The singer's estate co-operated with producers of the Netflix documentary What Happened, Miss Simone? which was nominated for an Oscar this year.

Robert L. Johnson, founder and chairman of the studio releasing Nina, describes Saldana's performance as "an exceptional and mesmerizing tribute."

"She gave her heart and soul to the role and displayed her extraordinary talent," he said in a statement Thursday.

"The most important thing is that creativity or quality of performance should never be judged on the basis of colour, or ethnicity, or physical likeness."

Representatives for Saldana and the Simone estate did not respond to requests for comment Thursday.

RLJ Entertainment will release Nina in theatres, digital HD and video on demand on April 22. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

War correspondent's book comes to big screen

INTERVIEW

Author's life made into a movie starring Tina Fey

Richard Crouse
For Metro Canada

Fey stars in Whiskey Tango Foxtrot, based on the book The Taliban Shuffle by Barker. HANDOUT

"To be a good journalist you have to be a bit of a chameleon," says Kim Barker. "You have to be accepting of different cultures, different languages and different situations. I have always been the kind of person who feels like they can go into any situation and fit in."

In real life, Barker is a journalist who worked at the Chicago Tribune as a reporter and volunteered to become a foreign correspondent in Afghanistan and Pakistan. In reel life, she's played by Tina Fey in Whiskey Tango Foxtrot as an expatriate television journalist addicted to the rush of living and working in a war zone.

Whiskey Foxtrot Tango plays like Animal House with warlords, or maybe Fear and Loathing in Afghanistan, but Barker describes the reality of her time there in more poetic terms.

"In Afghanistan everything looks like a picture," says Barker. "Everything is so beautiful. The people are beautiful. The landscape is beautiful. You are surrounded by mountains when you're in Kabul. (The people) are very friendly, very direct with very good sense of humour. Also Afghanistan has men with long beards and pick up trucks and guns who hate the government. That is familiar to me. I grew up in Montana."

At the beginning of her time abroad Barker was a fish out of water but soon learned to culturally adapt and love the country.

"I remember on my second trip there meeting a guy who asked if I wanted to go fishing with him. I grew up fishing but fishing in Afghanistan is a little bit different because it usually involved throwing a grenade into the lake and stunning the fish or blowing them out of the water or using generator wires to electrocute them. That just doesn't seem very sporting to me."

Barker's book, The Taliban Shuffle came to Tina Fey shortly after a New York Times review mentioned Barker's similarity to the comedic actress.

"Tina Fey saw it," Barker says. "I think her people probably showed it to her or my people. I don't really have people but my agent sent it over to her people. She read the book and within two weeks of that review coming out she pushed Paramount and Lorne Michaels (who produced the movie) to option the book and make it into a movie.

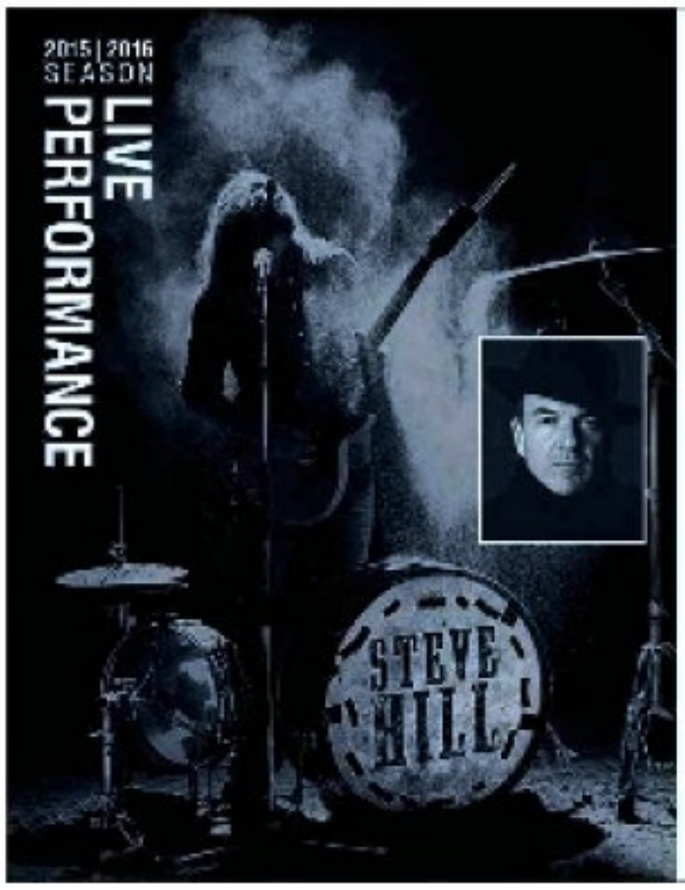
"(People) said, 'Who's going to play you?' I said, 'A smart funny woman in Hollywood,' and everybody was like, 'Tina Fey?' It was everybody's first answer."

Barker describes having her life turned into a film as surreal.

"It's hard to even think about," she says, "people seeing this in a theatre. They are going to equate me with Kim Barker even though (that) Kim Barker is a version of me. It's fictionalized."

She says the film screenwriter Robert Carlock told her early on that they would have to "Hollywood this up." Changes to the basic story were made, and when they sent her a final copy of the script in 2014 she couldn't bring herself to read it. Finally her best friend read the script "to make sure it is not going to embarrass you."

"She read it and said, 'It's fine. It's good. It's really good. You're probably not going to like parts of it because it makes you seem more heroic than you think of yourself.' She was absolutely right. I'm not that brave."



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THE TV DINNER JESSICA ALLEN

Knowing that Downton was soon to end, I got curious. Have Anna and Bates found happiness at long last?

When Downton Abbey concludes on March 6, there's little chance the series finale will abruptly cut to black, followed by excruciating silence, leaving loyal fans wondering if Lord Grantham got whacked. It would be preposterous — and not only because David Chase already did that back in 2007 when he ended The Sopranos but also because Downton's creator Julian Fellowes knows his fans: they would not tolerate an ambiguous ending whose meaning (like Chase's) could be debated for eternity. They want a happy conclusion, preferably bow-tied by the likes of Mr. Carson.

Over six seasons, the British drama has chronicled the lives lived both upstairs and downstairs in the Georgian-era country home. Simon and I used to watch Downton together. But when plots started to approximate soap operas in both length and content — Anna and Mr. Bates have to be two of the unluckiest characters ever on TV — no amount of tea cups, gorgeous Edwardian costuming and posh accents could help make the show feel more than a guilty pleasure. We tuned out.

But knowing that Downton was soon to end, I got curious. What has Mrs. Patmore been cooking up in the kitchen? Did Lady Sybil come back from the dead? Have Anna and Bates found happiness at long last? So I read some episode recaps, skipped straight ahead to Season 6, and breathed a sigh of relief to see that the Dowager Countess, played by Dame Maggie Smith, hadn't lost her penchant for acerbic aphorisms.

It looks like Thomas Barrow, "the most consistent plotter of nefarious schemes for nearly all six seasons of the show," as Vulture recently put it, may have atoned for past sins and be redeemed. And yes, there are still over-the-top sensational moments: in Episode 5 Lord Grantham's ulcer takes a turn for the worse and he literally starts spewing blood from his mouth during dinner.

But I did my catching up solo: Simon refused to return to Downton. So on Sunday night I'll tune in with an alone-time dinner. That's what I call a meal I'd never make for anyone else but me; simple food you'd be embarrassed to serve — even to your judgement-free partner — on account of it not approximating what most of us think of as dinner. For me, this is a green salad with thin slices of raw, red onion, some tangy goat cheese and a lemon dressing served alongside a big fat piece of baguette with butter and a crisp, dry white wine.

I already know how I want Downton to end. Imagine we flash forward to today when tour groups are being lead through the seemingly endless rooms by the current owners. They make their money by opening up the home; is a bit of meta realism considering this is how most of England's great country estates survive today — including Highclere Castle which doubles as Downton. A little boy on the tour notices a photo on the wall of Lady Mary. 'What happened to her?' he will ask. The new Lord will explain, and so on so forth, until the sepia-toned portraits of a vanished era have yielded lives fully lived. "All life is a series of problems which we must try and solve, first one and then the next and then the next," as the Dowager said, "until at last we die."

But I'm not holding my breath.

Jessica Allen is the digital correspondent on CTV's The Social.

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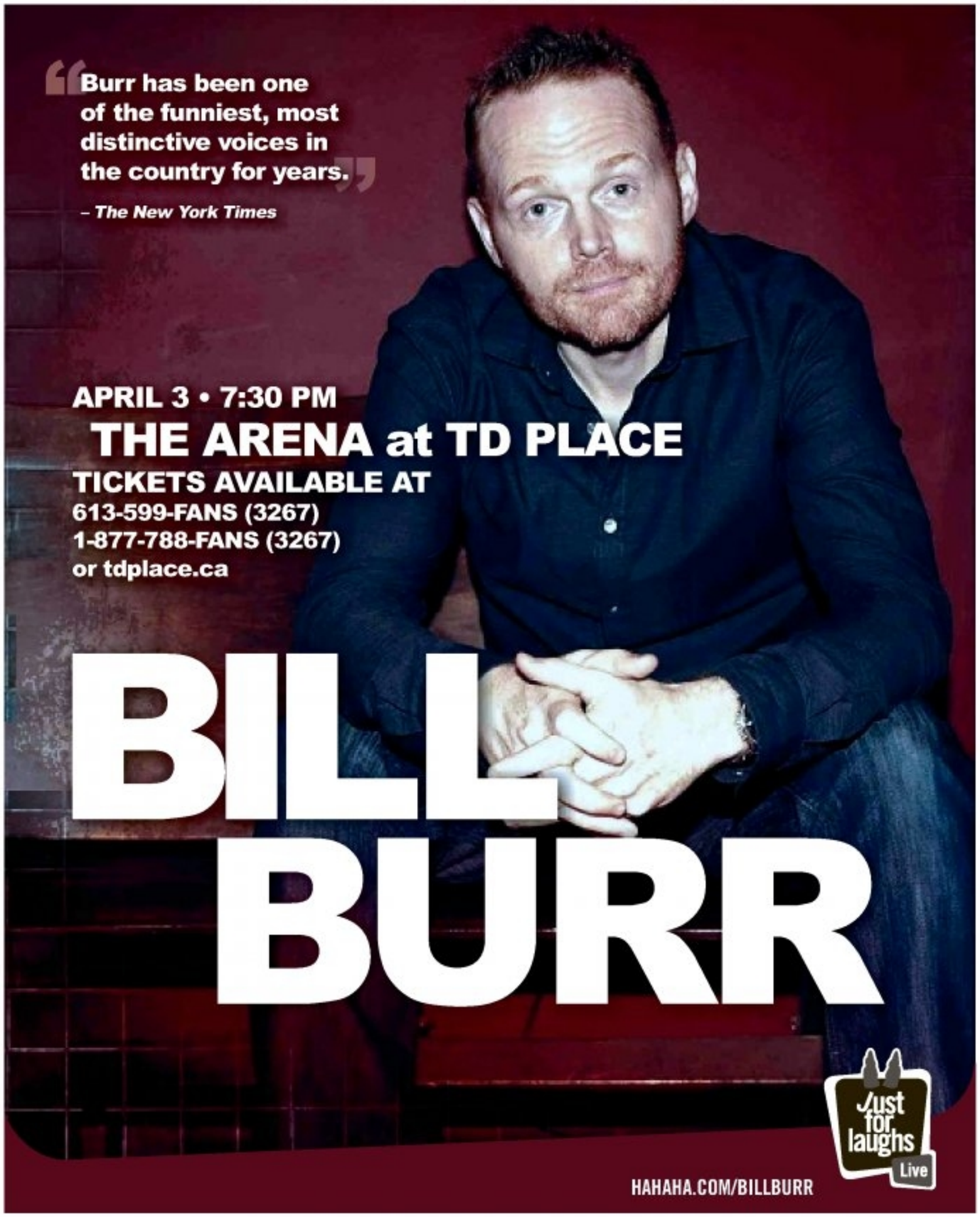
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Thousands of years on ice

ATLANTIC CANADA

Newfoundland's Iceberg Alley is full of great white wonder

Nature's frozen carvings drift through Iceberg Alley each spring and summer but early arrivals near Newfoundland's eastern shores have already lit up social media.

Eric Abbott did a double take in mid-January when he first saw a giant slab off Elliston, N.L. Since then, his photos of it and another water-sculpted berg off the pretty coastal town of Bonavista have drawn admirers from around the province and beyond.

"Most of the time I've seen them in March or April," he said in an interview. "There's people saying 'Eric, you think they'll be there in March month?' I say: 'My darling, the one in Elliston is grounded, it's only shifting back and forth. I allow it'll be there in August.'"

Many Newfoundlanders who posted photos of an iceberg spotted in mid-February off Signal Hill in St. John's said it's the earliest they can remember big ice showing up.

Byron Briggs, superintendent of Atlantic region ice operations for the Canadian Coast Guard, said it's not unusual to have icebergs off Newfoundland's east coast this time of year.

"The difference being this time, some of them are close enough to shore for people to see. In 2014 there were definitely more bergs than there are now, but most of them were about 100 miles off."

Only ships out to sea would have caught a glimpse, Briggs said in an interview. Icebergs have to be within about 20 kilometres of shore to be visible from land, he added.

Gabrielle McGrath, commander of the United States Coast Guard International Ice Patrol, has done recent surveillance flights over the region. The patrol was formed after the Titanic disaster in 1912, and works with Canadian partners to track icebergs in North Atlantic shipping lanes.

More than 20 bergs have so far been spotted in those lanes and many more originating from Greenland glaciers are heading south, McGrath said in an interview.

"It's hard to give a prediction exactly, but I think there is a potential to have a decent amount of icebergs this year."

McGrath said an interesting weather pattern of cold and warm spells combined with storm systems help explain a few things. "Some of the bergs have been pushed onshore maybe a little earlier than they would in the past."

Icebergs photographed close to Newfoundland and Labrador coastlines in past years have reached 45 metres in height while long, flat tabular giants have been estimated at five kilometres in length or more. Waves mould them into spectacular shapes that resemble cathedrals, pyramids and glass archways streaked with blue — and sometimes running with waterfalls. They are believed to be at least 12,000-year-old specimens of pure water.

Cecil Stockley, owner and operator of Iceberg Man tours in Twillingate on Newfoundland's northeast coast, takes groups out starting in May. In recent years he has hosted visitors from across North and Central America and as far away as Russia, China and Japan. "They come looking for icebergs.," he said.

To avoid disappointment, Stockley urges tourists to check in with local operators before they make the trip.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

An iceberg near Bonavista, N.L. on Feb. 13. THE CANADIAN PRESS

IF YOU GO

For tips on travel to Newfoundland and Labrador go to newfoundlandlabrador.com

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TIPS

How to save a bundle on spring break vacation

This year, spring break will be a tricky affair for some, with the school break at some schools coinciding with an early Easter weekend. But travel experts have a few insider tips on how to save a few bucks for your winter getaway.

According to analysts at flight tracker Hopper, the best days to book a flight are Monday to Wednesdays, when flyers can save up to 25 per cent on their airfare, compared to flights scheduled for Thursday to Saturdays.

And though tempting, budget-conscious travellers are advised to forget Friday departures, which are the most expensive.

Here are a few other tips:

Keeping a few tips in mind will help you save and have fun over spring break. ISTOCK

Spring break shoulder

If you can, try booking a trip in early March or late April to avoid the most expensive times to travel.

March Breaks that spill over to Easter are, predictably, the most expensive, posting a 45 per cent premium. The week of March 23, and April 6 are the second and third most expensive weeks.

Book now

The longer you wait, the more expensive the flight will be.

How much more? Booking less than two weeks in advance adds 33 per cent to the ticket price. Booking within three days? That will cost you 66 per cent more.

Monitor prices

In addition to the Hopper app which predicts drops in airfare, other flight tracking apps and sites include Airfare Watchdog, Skyscanner, Momondo and Google Flights.

It may also be worth signing up for alerts to low-budget airlines such as JetBlue, EasyJet, AirAsia, Ryanair, and the newest players on the block, Norwegian Air and WOW Air, which have been selling transatlantic one-way airfares for as little as $99 U.S.

AFP

TRAVEL NOTES OUTSIDER ART, CAMPER VANS, CACTUS LEAGUE

Outsider art museum opens in The Netherlands

A museum of outsider art is opening March 17 as part of the Hermitage Amsterdam in the Netherlands. Outsider art is art created by self-taught artists, unknowns and others outside the art establishment. It is also variously referred to as folk art, art brut and raw art. The new venture is a project of the Het Dolhuys in Haarlem, a museum of psychiatry, in partnership with other organizations.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Hermitage Amsterdam will feature a museum of outsider art. ISTOCK

Company rents out VW campers

Planning a road trip in a camper? Consider a set of old-school wheels. A Seattle-based company, Peace Vans Rentals, has fully restored Volkswagen camper vans, all Westfalia models built between 1987 and 1991. They sleep up to four adults and come with a built-in stove, sink and storage space. Included with the rental are cookware, utensils and headlamps, and a French press.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Peace Van Rentals has restored old-school campers. HANDOUT

Behold the Cactus League games

Arizona is getting ready for spring training season. Fifteen Major League Baseball teams play around the Phoenix metropolitan area as part of what's called the Cactus League. Spring training in Arizona has been a tradition since the 1940s when the Cleveland Indians and the New York Giants were the only teams that practiced there. The games run through April 2 in advance of MLB's opening day, April 3.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Yu Darvish at training. FORT WORTH STAR-TELEGRAM

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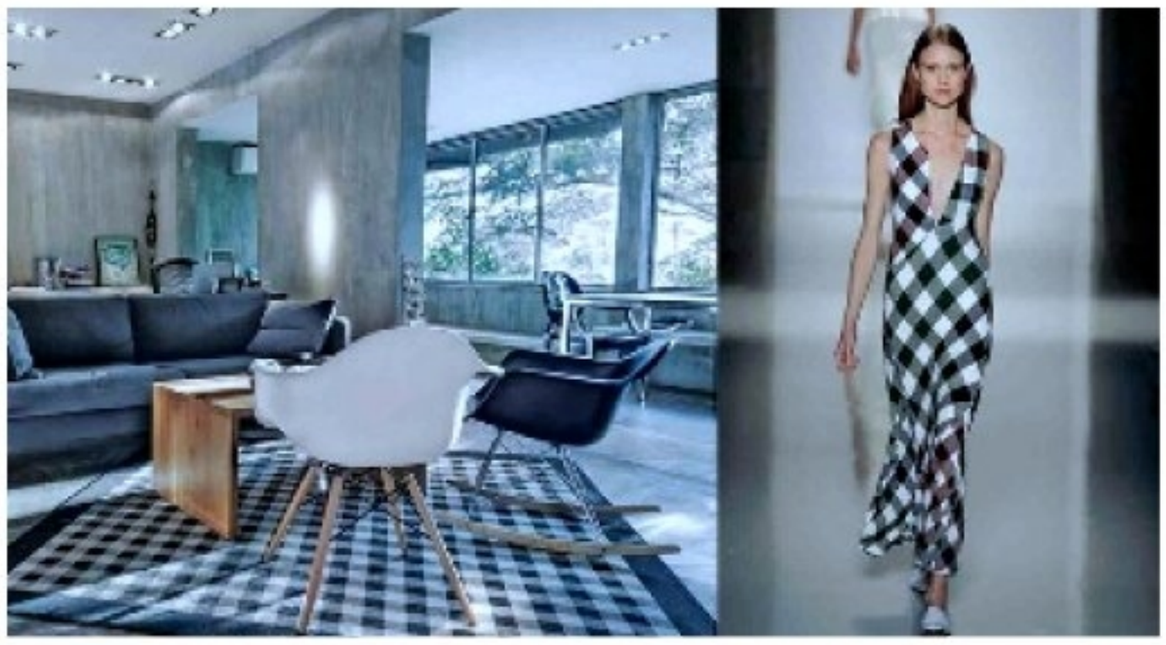
STAY MATCH YOUR DRESS WITH WHERE YOU REST

Can't bear to clash with the carpet? Airbnb has an apartment for that. For fashionistas who are sticklers for coordination, Airbnb has rounded up a list of fabulous rentals that match designer decor with fashion weeks around the globe. AFP



ALL PHOTOS AFP

Pretty in plaid

To go with a flowey, vichy-checked dress from the Victoria Beckham 2016 spring/summer collection, there's a loft in Bangkok where a black and white checkered carpet offsets an industrial, slate grey loft.

Bohemian like you

Is your style more Bohemian princess, à la Manish Arora's spring/summer collection? When in the south of France, look up a gypsy caravan decked out in unapologetically bold turquoises, bright fuschias and shabby chic patterns that match the boho chic ethos.

Stripes and stripes forever

But if you're more of a minimalist, à la Alice and Olivia's black and white-striped pant suit, there's an Osaka rental that will match the outfit perfectly, with its stark monochromatic décor: striped walls, zebra head, clean and minimal lines.

THIS WEEK'S TOP DEALS

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metro SPORTS

"Yeah, I don't care": LeBron James' reaction to those who are upset about his recent visit with Dwyane Wade in Miami

Winnipeg skip Mike McEwen, bottom, calls a shot as lead Ben Hebert and Brent Laing of Alberta look on during the Home Hardware Canada Cup Curling this past December in Grande Prairie, Alta.
MICHAEL BURNS/CURLING CANADA

Field stacked for the Brier

CURLING

McEwen to play for national title for first time

Winnipeg skip Mike McEwen picked a tough year to make his long-awaited Tim Hortons Brier debut.

The field is stacked for the upcoming Canadian men's curling championship at TD Place in Ottawa. Reigning Olympic champion Brad Jacobs of Northern Ontario, two-time Brier champ Kevin Koe of Alberta, top-ranked Brad Gushue of Newfoundland and Labrador and four-time world champion Glenn Howard of Ontario are some of the headliners.

Other contenders include defending champion Pat Simmons and his Team Canada rink along with B.C.'s Jim Cotter, Quebec's Jean-Michel Menard and Saskatchewan's Steve Laycock.

"There is probably six, seven or eight teams that have a legitimate shot," McEwen said.

Prince Edward Island's Adam Casey and New Brunswick's Mike Kennedy have also secured berths in the main draw, which begins Saturday afternoon at the 10,000-seat venue. The 12th and final spot goes to the winner of a qualification round-robin between Nova Scotia's Jamie Murphy, Bob Smallwood of the Yukon, Jamie Koe of the Northwest Territories and Nunavut's Wade Kingdon.

McEwen and his team of B.J. Neufeld, Matt Wozniak and Denni Neufeld capped an unbeaten run in the Manitoba playdowns with a 4-2 win over Canadian junior champion Matt Dunstone in the final. It was McEwen's first provincial title after settling for runner-up finishes in five of the last six years.

"I have no doubt that myself and probably some of my guys will have a bit of anxiety that first game when we step out on the ice," McEwen said. "That'll be there for sure and then I think we'll get comfortable pretty quick in that environment."

McEwen, 35, has been a powerhouse on the Grand Slam circuit for years and holds the No. 3 position on the Canadian Team Ranking System standings.

Jacobs, meanwhile, settled for a second-place finish last year after dropping an extra-end decision to Simmons in the final. The Sault Ste. Marie, Ont., rink won the Brier in 2013 before taking Olympic gold the following year in Sochi, Russia.

Menard won the Brier in 2006 while Kevin Koe was victorious in 2010 and 2014.

Howard, a national champion in 1987, 1993, 2007 and 2012, will be making his record 16th appearance at the Brier. Adam Spencer has been added to the roster as a replacement for Wayne Middaugh, who broke his leg in a skiing crash last January.

Gushue has been in top form this season and holds the No. 1 spot in the CTRS standings. The 2006 Olympic champion is hoping his 13th career Brier appearance will prove lucky and get him that elusive national title.

"There are still goals I want to achieve," Gushue said in a recent interview. "Obviously the Brier is the big one for me."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

THE PRIZE

The gold medallist will represent Canada at the April 2-10 world men's curling championship in Basel, Switzerland. Simmons won bronze at last year's world playdowns in Halifax.

> "You're going to have to play well just to get into that situation where you actually have a couple playoff games to hopefully come through. Mike McEwen

SENATORS

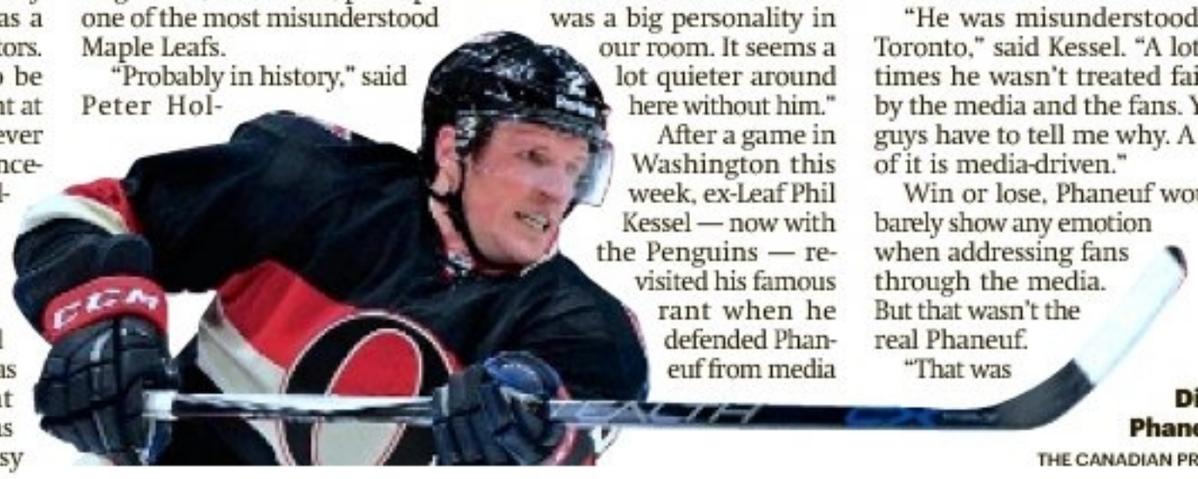
'We all loved Dion': Leafs to face former captain for first time

Dion Phaneuf returns Saturday to the Air Canada Centre as a member of the Ottawa Senators.

The response is sure to be muted from a crowd — silent at the best of times — that never fully warmed to the defenceman. He was no guts-and-glory Wendel Clark. He was no dazzling Doug Gilmour. He was no calm-but-wow Mats Sundin.

Phaneuf, a lightning rod for malcontent Leaf fans, was a symbol of all that went wrong during his tenure as captain. Phaneuf was an easy target and, as a result, perhaps one of the most misunderstood Maple Leafs.

"Probably in history," said Peter Holland. "We all loved Dion. He was a big personality in our room. It seems a lot quieter around here without him."



Dion Phaneuf
THE CANADIAN PRESS

After a game in Washington this week, ex-Leaf Phil Kessel — now with the Penguins — revisited his famous rant when he defended Phaneuf from media attacks.

"He was misunderstood in Toronto," said Kessel. "A lot of times he wasn't treated fairly by the media and the fans. You guys have to tell me why. A lot of it is media-driven."

Win or lose, Phaneuf would barely show any emotion when addressing fans through the media. But that wasn't the real Phaneuf.

"That was a persona he had to put on as captain, having that spotlight, having that attention," said Nazem Kadri. "You don't want to be saying the wrong thing when you're captain, being scrutinized, having things taken out of context. He was very conscious about that.

"He was a super-energetic guy to hang out with. Always laughing. Jokes. He was serious when things had to be done. He was the first one to get down to business. At the same time, he could loosen up and have some fun, too." TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Things could have fallen apart a lot worse if he was not there.
Maple Leafs forward Nazem Kadri

Phil Mickelson jokes with fans as he walks onto the ninth hole during the first round of the World Golf Championships-Cadillac Championship. MIKE EHRMANN/GETTY IMAGES

Mickelson figures out new-look Doral

GOLF

American star is third and seeking first win since 2013

Phil Mickelson's scores from Doral over the past two years clearly suggested that the redesigned Blue Monster wasn't completely to his liking.

He had to re-learn a course that he played for more than 20 years, and indicated Thursday that he finally has the new Doral figured out.

Mickelson shot a 5-under 67 on Thursday in the opening round of the Cadillac Championship, the first World Golf Championships event of the year. Seeking his first win since the British Open in 2013, Mickelson made seven birdies and finished the day one shot back of leaders Scott Piercy and Marcus Fraser.

"There is a bit of a learning curve on some of the contours and where you have to go and where you want to go and the best place to be," Mickelson said. "It's not like I came in here weeks before and mapped it out like a major. You're here only the week of. But this is our third year here now and it continues to get better each year."

Fraser had seven birdies before his lone bogey of the day, and Piercy also got to 7 under at one point before settling for his 66. Mickelson made bogey only twice, immediately erasing each with a birdie on the following hole, and the 67 was nearly six full shots better than his average round score at Doral in his previous two visits.

His best round on the Blue Monster in 2014 was a 69, and his low score at Doral last year was 71.

"It was a good day," said Mickelson, who feigned disbelief when his chip on the par-5 8th — his 17th of the day — stopped inches from the hole, leaving him a tap-in birdie. "I hit a lot of good shots, made some good putts and just drove it well, enjoyed the day."

Danny Willett, Adam Scott, Jason Dufner and Charley Hoffman were all two shots back of Piercy, each carding 68s. World No. 1 Jordan Spieth was in a group another shot back, three off the pace at 3 under, and said that even on a relatively calm day by Doral weather standards, it felt like a grind.

> **"There is a bit of a learning curve on some of the contours.**
> Phil Mickelson on the redesigned Doral course

"It always is here," Spieth said. "And this would be a day that should play about as easy as it possibly can with just a 5- to 10-mile-an-hour breeze. The standard wind here I think. Still, the scores aren't extremely low."

Spieth was in a featured group, with world No. 2 Jason Day and No. 3 Rory McIlroy with him. McIlroy shot 1 under, Day finished at even par. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SOCCER

Barca rout Rayo to break La Liga record

Lionel Messi scored a hat trick as Barcelona defeated nine-man Rayo Vallecano 5-1 to become the first Spanish club to play 35 consecutive matches without a loss, breaking Real Madrid's record of nearly three decades ago.

Midfielder Ivan Rakitic opened the scoring, Messi added the second, third and fourth goals, and Arda Turan topped it off late.

Rayo had two players sent off with straight red cards, Diego Llorente when they were 2-0 behind, and Manuel Iturra at 3-1 down. Luis Suarez missed a penalty kick with his team up 3-1. It was Barcelona's 10th win in a row in the Spanish league, keeping it eight points ahead of second-place Atletico Madrid, which defeated Real Sociedad 3-0 on Tuesday.

Real Madrid remained 12 points behind after defeating last-place Levante 3-1 on Wednesday. Real Madrid's record of 34 unbeaten games was set under coach Leo Beenhakker and with players such as Emilio Butragueno and Hugo Sanchez. That run ended in a 2-0 loss at Celta Vigo in 1989.

35

Number of consectutive matches the Catalan giants have gone without a loss.

Barcelona earlier this year had already broken its own club record of 29 games without a loss in all competitions, a mark that had been set by Pep Guardiola's squad in 2011. Luis Enrique's team hasn't lost since a 2-1 defeat at Sevilla in the league's seventh round in October. Barcelona tied Real Madrid's offence as the best in the league this season with 74 goals scored in 27 games.

Messi started his scoring spree just a minute after Rakitic's opener on a pass by Neymar inside the box, then added another shortly after the interval when Suarez struck the post, and netted his third from close range. The Argentine star, who had a goal disallowed in the ninth minute, now has 19 league goals. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Midfielder Ivan Rakitic slots home Barcelona's first goal off a misplay by Rayo Vallecano goalkeeper Juan Carlos on Thursday in Madrid. FRANCISCO SECO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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IN BRIEF

Floyd returns to help Blue Jays take down Pirates

Finally healthy after a three-year battle with injuries, right-hander Gavin Floyd turned in a solid start for the Toronto Blue Jays on Thursday in a 10-8 win against the Pittsburgh Pirates.

Justin Smoak hit a towering solo home run for the Blue Jays. The ball rode a light breeze and cleared the concourse in right-centre field. Floyd worked two innings and gave up one run on two hits. He walked one and struck out two. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Court debate may lead to 'Deflategate' ban for Brady

NFL union lawyers who want Patriots quarterback Tom Brady to put "Deflategate" behind him for good are ready to make their pitch to a New York court.

NFL lawyers are asking the 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Manhattan Thursday to reinstate the league's four-game suspension of Brady. They say a lower-court was wrong to rule that the league bungled a probe of deflated footballs at the 2015 AFC Championship game. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Pistorius appeal dismissed by highest South African court

South Africa's highest court has dismissed Oscar Pistorius' appeal of his murder conviction, a lawyer said Thursday, signalling that the former track star's long legal battle since he killed girlfriend Reeva Steenkamp may be drawing to a close.

The ruling by the constitutional Court clears the way for a judge to sentence the double-amputee runner for murder at a hearing scheduled for April 18. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Hodgson says Rooney a Euro 2016 shoo-in if fit

According to England coach Roy Hodgson, Wayne Rooney is guaranteed to make the England squad for the European Championship if he recovers in time from his right knee injury.

Speaking at a UEFA coaches' workshop in Paris, Hodgson said he won't judge his captain on his form when picking his 23-man list. Manchester United striker Rooney injured the ligaments in his knee last month. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

RECIPE Protein Pancakes with Cottage Cheese

PHOTO: MAYA VISNYEI

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

If you love breakfast for dinner (it's our favourite) then prepare to have your mind blown. These pancakes deliver, wait for it, a nice dose of protein thank you to the addition of cottage cheese. Also, did we mention they are pancakes?

Ready in
Prep time: 5 minutes
Total time: 30 minutes
Makes 6 pancakes

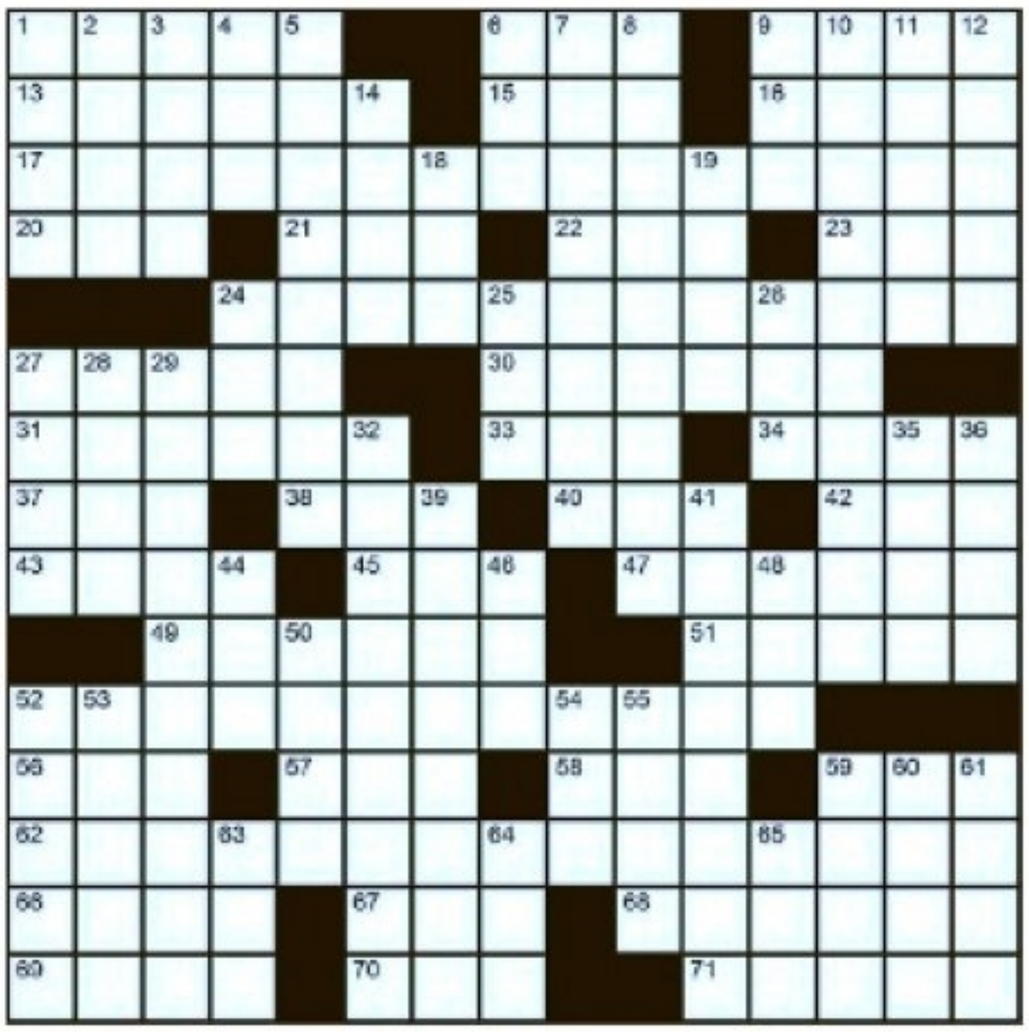
Ingredients
- 1 cup whole wheat flour
- 1/2 tsp baking soda
- 1/4 tsp fine sea salt
- 1/4 tsp cinnamon
- 2 eggs
- 1 cup low-fat cottage cheese
- 3/4 cup low-fat milk
- 2 Tbsp vegetable oil
- Butter for pan

Directions
1. In a large mixing bowl, stir together the flour, baking soda, sea salt and cinnamon.
2. In a separate bowl, whisk the eggs, cottage cheese, milk and oil.
3. Add the egg mixture to the flour and whisk until just combined.
4. Heat a large skillet or griddle over medium high heat and then toss in a pat of butter. Working in batches, form each pancake by pouring about 1/4 cup of batter into the pan. Cook pancakes until they are golden brown and bubbles break on the surface; then flip. Allow to cook through, about another minute. Serve with either maple syrup or a spoonful of Greek yogurt and honey.

FOR MORE MEAL IDEAS, VISIT SWEETPOTATOCHRONICLES.COM

CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS
1. A. _ & Co. Productions (Company-with-a-Canadian-co-founder behind the show at #52-Across)
6. Soul: French
9. Disapproves
13. Couch potato's dinner table: 2 wds.
15. Mr. Brooks
16. Juice berry
17. Canadian Forces... Meritorious Service Cross and General Campaign Star: 2 wds.
20. Poetic contraction
21. Sing-y syllable
22. Vintage record label
23. "_ Mir Bist Du Schon" by The Andrews Sisters
24. Popular palettes in interior decor now: 2 wds.
27. Gladiator's 553
30. RSVP 'yes'
31. Country singer Lee Ann
33. Avril's Sk8er's gender
34. Window part
37. Bon _ (High society)
38. Kit _
40. 'Proto' suffix (Amoebae, and kin)
42. Compete
43. Predicament
45. Wee weekday
47. LA Dodgers division: acr. + wd.
49. _ and tribulations
51. Ms. Flynn Boyle's
52. As per #1-Across... Culinary reality show for Chef Gordon Ramsay: 2 wds.
56. 'Human' suffix
57. European peak
58. Demure
59. Trendy
62. Really cold temperature: 3 wds.
66. Spa service, _-pedi
67. Position
68. Savoured
69. Belonging to London's wee country
70. ER pros
71. Alison Moyet's "Don't Go" duo

DOWN
1. Bank _.
2. Ancient 1007
3. "_ cost ya!"
4. Prefix to 'angle'
5. Magical feat for Wayne Gretzky: 2 wds.
6. Ms. Poehler
7. Television doctor: 2 wds.
8. Public speaking strength
9. Universal ideal
10. One admiring a coral reef at great depth: 2 wds.
11. R.U.R. playwright Mr. Capek
12. Oui ouis ...in Barcelona: 2 wds.
14. Lively
18. Mr. Liotta
19. Mr. Berkus
24. Angelina Jolie role
25. Capture
26. Ward workers, wee-ly
27. Tom Bergeron hosts it [acronym]
28. Ribbon bow part
29. "Hey, that's the truth!": 3 wds.
32. 'Of Ghosts and Gods' metal band from Montreal
35. Ms. Kudrow
36. Allows
39. Where a gardener might plant bulbs: 2 wds.
41. Back street
44. Li'l old MTV show
46. Ballpark fig.
48. Pallid
50. Time _ _ a premium
52. Player's call in blackjack: 2 wds.
53. Mr. Hawke
54. Nero's 250
55. Laugh-a-minute
59. "Eraser" Canadian noise/punk band
60. Nabisco's famous treat
61. Extinct bird of Mauritius
63. '_' _ for Rimouski
64. Sci-Fi movie extras
65. Ms. Gabor, for short

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS by Sally Brompton

Aries March 21 - April 20
An offer may seem attractive but don't commit yourself too quickly. Consider the pros and cons before deciding whether or not it is the right move for you. Opportunities are like buses — there will always be another.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
Be on your guard when dealing with people one-to-one. You may not be the sort who gives your trust too easily but some people can be very persuasive. Don't let them sway you.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
Why are you so defensive? Every time someone says something you take it as a personal slight. You're overreacting but this phase won't last long. You'll forget about it soon.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
You are tired from the constant running around you've been doing but you're also pleased by the progress you've made. You'll make more progress today if you slow down and concentrate on one specific aim.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
Some of the changes taking place may not be to your liking but there is nothing you can do about them. You know that, sooner or later, everything works out for the best.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
You won't let anyone coerce you into doing things you don't approve of. Now extend your protection to those who cannot look after themselves. Take them under your wing.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Be on your toes where anything of a financial nature is concerned. There is little doubt you will succeed but you will also attract people who think they can get rich at your expense.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
You seem to be constantly on the go, no doubt due to Mars, planet of ego and energy, in your birth sign. But even a Scorpio has limits, so slow down and focus on essentials.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Mistakes are a fact of life but if you find yourself making the same mistake over and over you can be sure that something's wrong. The world won't change for you, so you must change in response to the world.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Go all out to make a good impression on those you live and work with today. Creatively and romantically this is a great time for you and if you believe that you deserve to be lucky and loved then you will be.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
If you find it hard to live within your means that is a sign you're doing too many things for too many people — and paying too much for the privilege. How many of your "friends" really care for you? Be ruthless today.

Pisces Feb. 20 - March 20
No matter how tough the challenge, you will pass with flying colours. You are endowed with the kind of self-belief that can move mountains.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

4			3	8				
	3				2			8
8	2				1	6		
		8				3	1	
		6		9		4		
	5	9				8		
		4	5				9	1
7			1				6	
				6	9			3

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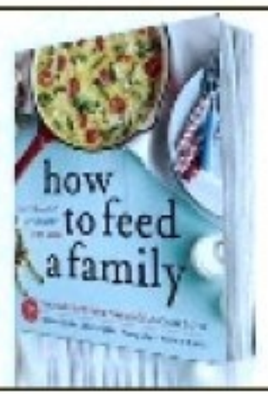

YESTERDAY'S ANSWERS

Your daily crossword and Sudoku answers from the play page.

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9	6	3	7	4	1	5	2	8
2	8	4	5	9	6	3	1	7
5	1	7	8	2	3	9	4	6
3	7	9	1	8	4	2	6	5
6	4	2	3	7	5	1	8	9
8	5	1	9	6	2	4	7	3
7	2	8	4	5	9	6	3	1
1	9	6	2	3	7	8	5	4
4	3	5	6	1	8	7	9	2

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